

CURBSTONE GAB.

All is Harmony in the Republican Ranks, and One Who Doubts Is Not Posted.

The Carter-Harrison-McCutcheon Factions Lying Down Together Like the Lion and Lamb.

Comments Upon the Political Situation by One Who Is Posted About What Is Going On.

"Taking it for granted that the local republican politicians say is true, their layout is spread for the accommodation of the public, and one need not bet on harmony to be a four time winner. But sure thing games are inhibited. Barring the fact that some of the most astute players in political games insist on putting a copper on Mr. Hersfield in every deal, he could be played also by an outsider to win out, but as long as those sitting around the board beat against each other it can not be expected for a man to put his chips on him according to directions and expect him to bob up serenely with a governor's commission in his pocket.

All is not harmony, assertions to the contrary notwithstanding. An anti-Hersfield republican was met last evening and questioned as to things political, both national and local.

"Why," he said, "we all agree Montana wants a republican governor and will have one as soon as Mr. Harrison can get around to it."

"But whom will he be?"

"That is a question I can't answer."

"I thought Mr. Hersfield had been agreed upon?"

"Indeed he hasn't."

"That is the understanding."

"I don't know who understands it that way unless it is a little clique who have prescribed drastic medicine and insist upon us taking it without making a wry face."

"How about that harmonious meeting at the Cosmopolitan Friday?"

"That was quite an informal affair. No cards. Some of the members of the last legislature were standing by the cigar counter discussing political affairs, when several local lights entered, and the gubernatorial question came up. Some one said that he did not want to see Mr. Hersfield governor, and several others coincided with him. Several others did, and the liveliest game of shuttlecock you ever saw was played for about ten minutes."

"What was the outcome?"

"We agreed to disagree."

"Wasn't it conceded that Delegate Carter should name the governor?"

"No, it wasn't. Tom Carter, as everybody knows, is in Washington pushing Hersfield down the aisle into the front row, but hasn't succeeded in getting his man any great distance. While we concede to Mr. Carter the right to name the governor, we also demand that he shall not name Mr. Hersfield."

"But there are those among you that say to Mr. Carter that he must nominate Mr. Hersfield. It strikes me that there isn't as much harmony among you fellows as you would have us imagine."

"There may be some disaffection in the ranks, but all that will be healed. We only want what is just and right, and we are going to have it."

"What is just and right?"

"A man for governor who will be satisfactory to the republican party."

"Mr. Hersfield is said to be that man."

"Mr. Hersfield isn't anything of the kind, and the men who say so know better. It is only to aggravate us that they insist upon his nomination."

"Who is as?"

"Why, the workers in the republican party—the men who elected Tom Carter and who will relegate him to oblivion if he doesn't recede from the position he has taken."

"If you won't have Hersfield, whom do you want?"

"Anybody will be satisfactory."

"Who is it, McCutcheon or Cole?"

"You can't expect me to give all our secrets away; but I can tell you one thing, and that is, that McCutcheon will stay in the race until Hersfield is disposed of, and then withdraw in the interest of some one else. McCutcheon could have the office but he doesn't want it. He doesn't want it."

"Hersfield and he isn't going to have him?"

"Does he want Cole?"

"Cole is a good compromise candidate. He could fill the office with a good deal of dignity. He is a dignified gentleman, as you must admit, but still some of the other fellows don't want the doctor, and I guess, in the light of recent events, the doctor will have to stand aside."

"For whom?"

"B. F. White, of Dillon. He is the coming man. McCutcheon has gone to Washington to give him a boost, and you can rest assured that Mac and Russell B. will get there."

"Has McCutcheon gone to Washington?"

"He left for there Friday noon over the Montana Central. Russell B. telegraphed him to come and help straighten the old man, and he went with the name of B. F. White in his vest pocket. White will be nominated about the middle of next week, receive his commission at once, and then goodbye to democratic rule in Montana."

"What if things don't turn out as you have predicted?"

"But they will. The others may squirm and twist as much as they please, but Russell B. and Isaac D. are going to run this territory."

"I suppose Russell has senatorial aspirations?"

"He certainly has, and he would make a good senator. People are wont to make light of Russell's abilities, but they make a mistake when they do so. Russell is a man of broader culture than even his most intimate associates imagine, and Montana would do herself proud by electing him to the United States senate, and he will be elected."

"Who will be the other senator?"

"Lee Mantle, of course."

"Don't you think there are others older, wiser and better men in your party you could honor?"

"There are a number of old togies who imagine they have a grip on the party and can swing it any way they want, but they can't do it. There was a time when they could, but there is too much young and vigorous blood in Montana at the present time to permit the old fossils to run the republican party. With Russell B. Harrison and Lee Mantle as United States senators, I think Montana could consistently ask for an additional star on the flag."

Other republicans with whom the INDEPENDENT reporter conversed expressed the belief that McCutcheon himself would be the gubernatorial nominee, as his hand at the helm during this year of political activity would be more firm than Dr. Cole's, who, it was held, had shown a lack of perception while presiding in the council. McCutcheon, too, it was said, stood strong at the white house, and was perhaps the only man who could overcome the strong pressure brought to bear in behalf of Mr. Hersfield, who is backed by all the members of the territorial committee, the eastern banking house of Seligman & Co., several other large financial concerns and Senator Quay.

Municipal Matter.

The gentleman who discoursed so fluently about National and Montana affairs

was asked about municipal affairs, but he wasn't as well posted on them as on things of greater importance to him.

"Now this being an off republican year," he said, "you democrats imagine you can elect a mayor and get control of the city government, but you can't do anything of the kind. We propose to continue in power nationally, territorially and locally, and the next city administration will be republican as it now is in all its branches."

"Who will be mayor?"

"The man who runs on the republican ticket. I don't know who that will get, but I have heard several good men spoken of, but no one has been agreed upon as yet. If Capt. Fuller wants the office again, and I believe he does, he can have it. He has made a good mayor, and has an enviable record. He hasn't missed a meeting of the council, and he has been a wise, prudent and considerate officer. His appointees have been men who have given satisfaction."

"How about the police force?"

"Well, that could be improved somewhat, but in the main it is good and effective, and will be better this year. Good policemen require training, and it takes years to bring them up to a high standard. If Marshal Hard is reappointed I am sure he will 'fire' several inefficient men, and I understand that Mayor Fuller has been informed that if he is nominated it will be with the proviso that he shall require Marshal Hard, who will be his appointee, to make necessary changes."

"Are there no other candidates?"

"The woods are full of them. Moses Morris wants the office badly and would make a most excellent mayor, but I doubt if he can receive the nomination. T. H. Kleinschmidt also wants the office and has strong backing. Among the democrats I hear Jake Loeb and Marcus Lissner spoken of. Jake says he doesn't want it, and Lissner says he doesn't want it, but I believe Marcus would willingly accept if it were tendered him. Then I heard to-day that A. J. Davidson would be asked to accept. A. J. would give us a sharp twist. He is a popular man and might get in, though, as I said, we intend to carry the city. As for city clerk and attorney, we propose to elect A. C. Botkin again, and W. C. Humbert will be our city treasurer. As for the aldermen, I suppose democrats as well as republicans will be elected. It doesn't make much difference as long as they are good men, but the big offices we intend to hog ourselves."

Sateens—One case French sateens in exquisite patterns just received at Raleigh & Clarke's.

IN A FAR OFF LAND.

John Besserer Writes from South America—A Former Helena Man in Clover.

Capt. John Besserer, of the champion base ball nine of the season of 1896, has been heard from. He is away down in Buenos Ayres, South America. Writing to a friend in this city he expresses great anxiety to hear what kind of a record the Helena boys made for themselves in 1898.

From what he writes Buenos Ayres must be a paradise. Fine horseflesh is in great demand. One span of American roadsters, writes, brought \$4,000 recently and many bring from \$1,000 upwards. The people are great lovers of horse racing. Last month some Yankees brought down a stable of trotters and sold one, Pickwick, record 2:27, for \$25,000 to a wealthy native. This horse was entered in a race and the Yankees started Middleton, Jr., against it, who easily won the race from Pickwick, the clever canter's winnings being estimated at \$125,000. They soon left the country afterwards.

Besserer writes that a man named Wolf, who in 1870 was a resident of this city and barkeeper for Nick Kessler, is at Buenos Ayres and to-day worth \$75,000. He is engaged to be married to a rich heiress, 17 years of age. He left Helena with \$2,000, and now owns the finest saloon and restaurant in Buenos Ayres, for which he received some time since \$50,000 cash. He is a business man and has a very large bank account.

Bolivia, he says, is going to be the scene of a great stampede in the course of a year. All the railroads are heading for there and he regards it as a good bet for one for a young man to get a start in the world. He says he is doing very well.

Celestino Palacio & Co.'s Key West cigars at the Bijou.

Life Insurance Results.

The New York Life Insurance company's results have never been equaled by any other company.

On the fifteen and twenty year endowment plans the results in cash are the return of all the premiums paid and from 5 to 6 per cent. interest additional, for the average time they were in the hands of the company, and the parties have had fifteen years' insurance for nothing. In other words they added to their estates immediately upon the payment of their first premiums, amounts that it would have taken them fifteen years to accumulate had they deposited the same sums annually in a savings bank, and they may now withdraw their money with a better rate of interest than could have been obtained elsewhere on an absolutely safe security, free from taxation, execution and all business risks. These policies insure financial success to those who live, and protect the estates and families of those who die.

All policies now issued by this company are non-forfeitable after three annual premiums have been paid.

Celestino Palacio & Co.'s Key West cigars at the Bijou.

To-day's Services.

The subject for this morning at the Christian church is "The One Foundation" and for this evening "Avoid Extremes in Theology." After the evening sermon several persons are to be buried with Christ in baptism. Sunday school at 9:45 this morning. Strangers, as well as citizens, are cordially invited to all our services.

Rev. W. M. Britt, pastor of the Grand street Methodist church, has been quite sick for several days, but is now convalescent. Services to-day, morning and evening, will be conducted by Rev. W. J. Hunter. Revival meetings will be held every evening this week. Rev. J. H. Johnson, of Bozeman, is expected to assist.

At St. Peter's church, in addition to the usual services to-morrow, there will be a celebration of the holy communion in the chapel of the hospital at 7:45 a. m.

Silks and Velvets.—New shades for spring in plain colors and fancy stripes and plaid, just received at

RALEIGH & CLARKE'S.

Y. M. C. A. War Lectures.

Monday evening, March 18, "At the Front," Tuesday evening, March 19, "Among the Johnnies." These lectures are vividly and impressively illustrated with original views from life by means of dissolving stereopticons. They will be about twelve feet square and about 200 in number. They were taken by both federal and confederate photographers. Each lecture is entirely distinct in itself and thorough explanations are given throughout. Many of these views were used in illustrating the now famous Century Magazine war articles. Admission 25 cents.

Teeth extracted without pain with the electric vibrator at Drs. Stone & Head.

MINE INSPECTION.

Provisions of the Act of the Sixteenth Legislative Assembly of Montana Territory.

A Costly but Ineffective Law, Devised to Mislead Workingmen for Political Ends.

The Duty of the Inspectors in Case of Accidents—The Oath of Office Prescribed.

The following is a careful summary of the territorial law creating the office of mine inspector and prescribing the duties of that official and his deputy. Its provisions are commended to the careful perusal of those citizens who imagined that the bill was intended to have the effect its originators claimed for it:

Section 1 creates the office of inspector of mines.

Sec. 2. The governor, with the consent and advice of the council, shall appoint an inspector of mines, who shall be a person of temperate habits, a citizen of the United States, a resident of Montana, and a property owner therein, not under 30 years of age, who shall be theoretically and practically acquainted with mines and mining in all its branches, and whose term of office shall be for two years, unless sooner removed by the governor for cause, and whose office shall be at the capital. Provided, that when a vacancy occurs for any cause and the council is not in session, the governor shall have power to appoint said inspector, who shall perform the duties and receive the compensation of such office as hereinafter provided until the next session of the legislature, when the governor shall submit such appointment to the council for its approval or rejection.

No employee of any mining company or corporation or any officer or director thereof shall hold the office of inspector during such term of office as inspector. The inspector and deputy shall take the following oath: "I, _____, of the county of _____, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully perform each and every duty required of me as inspector or deputy inspector of mines of Montana; that I will at all times, while acting in such official capacity, fulfill the duties of such office according to law and the best of my skill and understanding; that I will never at any time while I hold the office of inspector or deputy inspector of mines, disclose to any one, directly or indirectly, under any circumstances whatsoever, any information relative to the value of any mining property that may have come to me in any visit to, or examination of, or knowledge of any such mining property within Montana, while I am acting as such official; that I will never in any way take advantage of, or suffer anyone else to take advantage of, any knowledge relative to the value of any ore or mineral in any mine that I may acquire in any examination of any mine or shaft or tunnel connected with any mine, or of any ore or mineral that I may see within any mine; that I will never deal in any mining properties, directly or indirectly, by bargain or sale, wherein I may have occasion to make any examination, or while I am acting as such inspector or deputy inspector, nor will I impart or express to any person any opinion I may form of the value of any mine, or any ore within any mine, or any part of any mine; that I shall consider this obligation as binding upon me while I am acting as inspector or deputy as I shall while I am acting in such official capacity. To all of which I pledge my sacred honor, so help me God."

Sec. 3. The inspector shall have a seal.

Sec. 4. The inspector shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and shall receive a salary of \$2,500 per annum. The governor with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint a deputy inspector, who shall serve for two years, but always subject to removal by the governor. He shall act any time when an emergency arises, such as in case of accidents in mines, or of the absence or disability of the inspector, and shall receive \$5 per diem while

actually engaged in the performance of duty; the total compensation not to exceed \$600 per annum. His qualifications shall be the same as those of the inspector.

Sec. 5. The inspector and deputy are allowed not to exceed \$2,000 for traveling, rent, fuel, postage, stationery and printing expenses, to be paid out of moneys in the territorial treasury not otherwise appropriated. The expenditures shall be presented to the auditor in vouchers certified under oath by the inspector.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the inspector to visit, enter and examine in person or by deputy any mine or piece of mining ground for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the same in regard to its safety, ventilation and means of egress, and shall have access at all times to any stopes, levels, winzes, tunnels, drifts, crosscuts, shafts, works and machinery. Provided, the working of such mine shall not be impeded or obstructed during such examination; and that the inspection shall not be at the expense of the owner, lessor, lessee or agent of the mine, but such owner, etc., shall render such assistance as may be necessary to make the required examination.

Sec. 7. Upon complaint in writing by three or more persons setting forth that the mine in which they are employed is dangerous in respect to the safety of the mine, the inspector or deputy shall examine such mine. Provided, every such complaint shall set forth specifically the nature of the danger existing and how such danger apparently or actually exists, and shall distinctly set forth the reason why such defect or danger has been given by complainants or any one else, to their knowledge, to the superintendent of the mine; and if no complaint has been made to the superintendent, the reason why it was not made; and that all complaints shall be duly verified by the complainants before some officer authorized to administer oaths. After receipt of the complaint the inspector shall serve a certified copy of it, but without the names of the complainants, upon the superintendent, manager or owner of such mine, any time before he visits the mine, and as soon as possible visit the mine, and if from examination he shall ascertain the mine is from any cause in a dangerous condition, he shall at once notify the owner, etc., thereof in writing and to be served in the same manner as provided by law for the serving of legal notices, said notice to state fully and in detail in what particular manner such mine is dangerous or insecure, and shall require all necessary changes to be made without delay for making said mine safe for the laborers therein. And in case of criminal or civil procedure against the parties so notified, on account of loss of life or bodily injury sustained subsequent to such notice and in consequence of a neglect to obey the inspector's requirement, a certified copy of the notice served shall be prima facie evidence of the culpable negligence of the parties complained of. Nothing in this act shall be construed as to give the control of any mine to the inspector or deputy or to allow them to interfere with the working of any mine.

Sec. 8. The inspector once in a year shall visit each mining county in Montana and examine as many mines as practicable, and make such recommendations as in his judgment are necessary to insure the safety of the workmen employed therein, and whenever from examination he finds any mine in an unsafe condition he shall at once serve a notice as provided in section 7.

Sec. 9. When a serious or fatal accident occurs the owner of a mine or superintendent, lessee or lessor are required immediately and by the quickest means to notify the inspector or deputy, and upon receipt of such notice one of them shall at once go to the place of accident and investigate fully the cause of such accident, and whenever possible be present at the coroner's inquest held over the remains of the person or persons killed by such accident, and shall testify as to the cause thereof, and shall state whether in his opinion the accident was due to the negligence or mismanagement of the lessor, lessee, owner or agent of such mine, or the manager or superintendent, or other person in charge. If the inspector or deputy cannot be immediately present in case of a fatal or serious accident occurring, it shall be the duty of the superintendent, owners, or persons in charge of the mine to have written statements made by those witnessing the same and duly sworn to. In case no person be present at the time of the accident the statement of those first present shall be taken, which shall be sworn to, such statements to be given the inspector or deputy upon demand of either of them.

Sec. 10. Any owner, agent, etc., of any mine who fails to comply with section nine is to be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor

and on conviction thereof punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Sec. 11. This section forbids the employment of children under 14 years of age in mines under a penalty of fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Sec. 12. Provides that the inspector shall give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties in the sum of \$5,000, with two or more sureties. The bond to be approved by the governor. The deputy to give a like bond in the sum of \$2,500. Both bonds to be filed with the territorial auditor.

Sec. 13. Provides that the inspector shall make a report on the 1st of December in each year, enumerating all accidents which have occurred which have resulted in serious injury or death, together with the cause of such accidents; and to contain statistical information tending to aid in the development of mineral resources.

Sec. 14. Provides for turning over his records to his successor.

Sec. 15. Provides that this law shall not apply to mines where less than five persons are employed or mines where no other person than the owner, lessee or lessor is permitted to work.

The law takes effect June 1, 1899.

Celestino Palacio & Co.'s Key West cigars at the Bijou.

A HELENA STABLE.

A String of Trotters to Figure in Coming Turf Events.

Active preparations have already begun for the coming season's turf events. The stables and men who will handle them this year will show a great advance in races and racing, as no little attention is being paid to engage proper men to handle the horses. Billy Taylor, the well-known horseman, has been engaged to manage Breck & Fischer's string of trotters, and will doubtless be heard from in the future. This stable at present is composed of the following promising youngsters: Little Dick, bay gelding, by Tom Edison, dam by Donerail; will be entered in 2:45 and 2:52 classes. P. B. C., 4 years old, by Maxim, dam Angle by Manbrino Waggoner; will start in three minute classes through the circuit. Recruit, 3 years old, by Kentucky Volunteer, dam Dolt by Manbrino Diamond; entered in 3-year-old stakes. Florida, 2 years old, by Montana Wilkes, dam Alberta by Donerail; entered in 2-year-old stakes. Fennia, 2 years old, by Donerail, dam by Young Gem, by George Wilkes; entered in 2-year-old stakes. She is the property of John O'Connor, of Pope & O'Connor.

Mr. Taylor has had twenty years' experience in handling trotters, and Breck & Fischer think they have a prize in him as a man for their stables.

Ginghams—Three cases staple and fancy checks and stripes of foreign and domestic manufactures for sale by Raleigh & Clarke.

Magnificent Insurance Returns.

For a number of years, the annual reports of the Equitable Life Assurance Society have shown a larger outstanding business, a larger new business and a larger surplus than any other similar organization. It has won the right to be designated one of the largest, strongest and most popular organizations of its kind in the world. The 22nd annual statement of the society, just published, shows that during the past year all its previous achievements have been surpassed. Its outstanding assurances amount to \$549,000,000, its new assurances for the year to \$153,933,555, its surplus to \$39,794,715, and has paid policy holders during the year \$12,000,000. Such figures speak for themselves, and prove that the Equitable Society has become one of the great financial institutions of the world.

In this territory it has surpassed all its competitors, writing 258 new policies, or nearly one policy for each working day of the year, amounting in the aggregate to \$1,291,000, while the New York Life, a company sixteen years older, has during the same period and in this territory, written thirty-three policies, amounting to \$165,000. This shows the estimation in which the Equitable free untone, indisputable policies are held by the insuring public.

Try It.

Try our best patent flour, the best in the market, and Whittaker Star brand, at JOHN T. MURPHY & Co.'s.

HELENA UNION DEPOT.

An Improvement Which Is Much Needed—Railway Notes and News.

The matter of building a grand union passenger depot in Helena is a subject that has been dwelt upon many times by business men. A well known and prominent citizen said in this connection yesterday:

"I think that some action pointing in this direction should be taken soon. Now is the time to begin. If the three great roads, the Northern and Union Pacific and Manitoba, which enter here, would come together on this proposition, I feel sure, if they need any assistance from our citizens, they would do a great deal in furthering the enterprise—say for instance in procuring a site. That it would prove of vast benefit to the roads and also to Helena there is no doubt. But I have noticed in the dispatches of the last few days that the Northern Pacific proposes to expend something like \$25,000,000 at Tacoma for improvements and in conjunction with the Union Pacific will conduct the expense of improving the Montana Union, which will be about \$600,000. Then there are rumors of both roads going to build more branch lines, and in view of all these expenditures, it seems to me that the union depot matter is going to take a back seat. Also the Manitoba people are averse to spending any more funds until they begin to realize something on the great amount of capital invested in the construction of their road."

"It seems to me that Helena has been too quiet. Butte bowed until it was hoarse for improvements, and now that they are promised, it is beginning to urge a union depot. Tacoma also persisted in her claims until she has been promised all she asked for. I think the board of trade should take our request in hand and use some effort to bring this matter before the railroad companies. Helena is and always will be the railroad center of Montana and a grand union depot is what she needs."

Whether the Manitoba road will build this year is not definitely known, but if it does its first move will be to strike out for the coast with Assiniboine as the starting point, crossing the main range of the Rocky mountains, along the north of Flathead lake to Spokane Falls where the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern road will be met, thus forming another through line from St. Paul to the Pacific coast. The statements made by a Mr. Rogers in Portland recently concerning the Manitoba road were regarded here as unworthy of note. Col. Broadwater, president of the Montana Central, laughed when he read the statement. He thinks Mr. Rogers was grossly misquoted. In the Portland dispatch the gentleman is quoted as saying the cost of extending the Manitoba to the coast would be about \$9,000,000. Col. Broadwater says that \$25,000,000 would be nearer the figure. By the time the next state election comes around the colonel promises that the Milk river country will contain many thousands happy and prosperous farmers who will have tilled its matchless soil and added greatly to the wealth of the state of Montana. "And they will be democrats, too," suggested General Manager Shelby. Already the flow of immigration has begun. The town of Dawes, now called Chinook, which sixty days ago was a vacant waste, is to-day a town of fully 300 souls. Tents are scattered around while houses are being erected. No expense has been spared in the use of printers' ink to make known the extent and value of this great Milk river reserve, to the millions in the east. The statements made are not exaggerated, but in fact the half is not told of the inducements Montana offers to settlers. As yet she has no manufactures of any note, but a more inviting field for these enterprises is not to be found anywhere.

Through the medium of the Manitoba road, Montana has had more advertising than ever attempted before. A gentleman speaking of this remarked: "Yes, the Manitoba railroad has spent more money for advertising Montana this year than any other road has expended in eight years. No other road gave an excursion until the Montana Central was started, and your Helena merchants never had an opportunity of engaging in the jobbing trade until its completion made it possible."

The C. L. St. L. & C. Ry. (Kankakee Line), is now selling round trip tourist tickets to points in Florida at very low rates. Tickets, first-class, good fifteen days in each direction and until June 1, 1899, for return. Call on address nearest agent for tickets, rates, time, etc.

SANDES BROS.

A Grand Spring Array

OF

PARISIAN NOVELTIES

IN

Elegant Silks, Fine Dress Goods

AND

SUPERB SPRING WRAPS

Will be Shown In Our House On To-morrow, Monday Morning, and During the Week.

SANDES BROS.

Helena, M. T.